

**Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission:  
Federal Subsistence Regulations (50 CFR 100)  
and Associated Forms (7FS-1, 7FS-2, and 7FS-3)  
OMB Control Number 1018-0075**

**Section A. Justification**

1. Explain why you need to collect this information. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate this information collection.

The Alaska Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and Service regulations at 50 CFR 100 require that persons engaged in taking fish and wildlife on public lands in Alaska apply for and obtain a permit to do so and comply with reporting provisions of the permit. Our regulations at 50 CFR 100.6 require that persons engaged in taking fish and wildlife under 50 CFR 100 (for subsistence use) comply with reporting provisions of the Federal Subsistence Board. These regulations provide that when the taking of fish and wildlife is in accordance with 50 CFR 100.6(f), the harvest activity must be reported in accordance with regulations specified for that community in subpart D and as required by any applicable permit conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions is a violation of the regulations. This information is needed in order to evaluate subsistence harvest success; the effectiveness of season lengths, harvest quotas, and harvest restrictions; hunting patterns and practices; and hunter use. Once harvest success information is evaluated, the Federal Subsistence Board uses this information, along with other information, to set future seasons and bag limits for Federal Subsistence resource users. These seasons and bag limits are set in order to meet needs of subsistence hunters without adversely impacting the health of existing animal populations. In addition, 50 CFR 100.20 sets forth procedures for persons who wish to appeal a decision made by the Federal Subsistence Board. The information required of persons requesting an appeal allows us to have all of the information we need to adequately reconsider the decision.

2. Explain how FWS will use the information. If this is not a new collection, explain how FWS has used the information received.

The information will be used to determine:

- How many animals or fish are harvested during a presided hunt or fishing season;
- How many hunting or fishing days were required to take an animal or fish or were expended unsuccessfully;
- What mode of transportation was utilized to reach the hunting or fishing area;
- The general location where hunting or fishing took place; and
- If an animal was taken or fish were caught, the date of the take and essential species descriptors.

We have used this information to set subsistence hunting seasons and bag limits and to set subsistence fishing seasons. Failure to collect this information would severely handicap the setting of future subsistence hunting seasons and bag limits and fishing seasons for Federal Subsistence resource users and would jeopardize our ability to properly perform our functions related to the sections of Title VIII of ANILCA (16 U.S.C. 3111-3126) that require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to grant a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on public lands in Alaska, while also maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations.

In addition, we use the appeals information to reconsider Federal Subsistence Board decisions at the request of a member of the public. If we were to discontinue this collection, we could not fully consider an appeals request.

3. Does this information collection use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques? Provide the reasons for the decision to adopt this means of collection. Describe any consideration you gave to using information technology to reduce burden on the public.

This information is unique to each applicant. Personal interviews could be utilized to obtain this information from some individuals, but such interviews would be far more costly than mailed reports or requests. Realistically, it would be impossible to personally contact all or most hunters and fishers because of the remoteness of the areas hunted and fished. Further, due the remoteness of the locations involved and the lack of computers by the applicants and appeals requesters, responding by electronic means is not feasible.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show why similar information already available cannot be used or modified.

No similar information is collected by the Service or by other Federal agencies.

5. If the collection will have a significant impact on small entities, such as small businesses, describe methods used to minimize burden on them.

Not applicable. No small businesses will be impacted or involved.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal programs or policies if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Subsistence hunting seasons, and their associated bag limits, and subsistence fishing seasons are set annually. If we were to discontinue this information collection, or collect the information

less frequently, we would not have the data we need to set subsistence hunting or fishing seasons to respond to the needs of Federal subsistence users while ensuring maintenance of healthy animal populations. Further, if we were to discontinue the appeals request collection, we could not fully consider an appeals request, which would undermine an individual's right to appeal a Board decision.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

There are no special circumstances that would cause the collection to be conducted in any manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Cite and provide a copy of the 60-day Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received on the 60-day notice, and describe actions taken by FWS in response to those comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. Describe your efforts to consult with persons outside of FWS to obtain their views on the availability of data; frequency of collection; clarity of instructions, disclosure, or reporting format; and data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. Consultation should include obtaining their views on the amount of burden to be imposed and ways to minimize the burden. If circumstances prevent this consultation, describe them.

On January 16, 2003, we published in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 2347) a notice informing the public that we are submitting a request to OMB to renew approval of this information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act. We requested public comment on the forms for 60 days, ending March 17, 2003. By that date, we did not receive any comments.

9. Explain any decision to provide a gift or payment to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors and grantees.

Not applicable. There is not to be any payment or gifts provided the applicants.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or policy.

The following assurances are made to Federal Subsistence Hunt Permit Holders, Designated Hunter Permit Holders, and Federal Fish/Shellfish Permit Holders: This information collection is authorized by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and regulations promulgated thereunder. All names and identifying information will be removed when we compile the results

and only summary information will be reported. This information is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974.

There is no assurance of confidentiality provided to persons who request an appeal of a Federal Subsistence Board decision.

11. Provide justification for any questions of a sensitive nature. Include the reasons why the questions are necessary, the specific uses for the information, the explanation given to respondents, and steps taken to obtain respondents' consent.

Not applicable. No sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the information collection. Include an estimate of the dollar value of the burden hours.

Regulation	Form Name and Number	Number of Reports or Requests Annually	Average Time Per Report or Request	Burden Hours	Total Dollar Value of Burden Hours (@ \$20 per hour)
100.6	Federal Subsistence Hunt Application, Permit, and Report (7FS-1)	4,900	15 minutes	1,225	\$24,500
100.6	Federal Subsistence Designated Hunter Application, Permit, and Report (7FS-2)	400	15 minutes	100	\$2,000
100.6	Federal Subsistence Fishing Permit and Harvest Report (7FS-3)	125	30 minutes	62.5	\$1,250
100.20	NA	1	4 hours	4	\$80
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,426</b>		<b>1,391.5</b>	<b>\$27,830</b>

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual non-hour dollar cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers. Do not include the cost of burden hours described in items 12 and 14.

There will be no non-hour dollar cost burden to respondents. There is no fee for applying for or obtaining a Federal Subsistence Hunt Permit, Designated Hunter Permit, or Federal Fish/Shellfish Permit, and there is no fee associated with reporting on take. There is also no fee for requesting an appeal of a Federal Subsistence Board decision.

14. Provide estimates of the annual cost to the Federal Government. Include a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses, and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

The annual cost to the Federal Government of processing the Federal Subsistence Hunt Application, Permit, and Report is estimated to be \$31,605 (4,900 @ approximately \$6.45 each).

The annual cost to the Federal Government of processing the Designated Hunter Application, Permit, and Report is estimated to \$2,580 (400 @ approximately \$6.45 each).

The annual cost to the Federal Government of processing the Fish/Shellfish Harvest Application, Permit, and Report is estimated at \$806 (125 @ approximately \$6.45 each).

The annual cost to the Federal Government of processing an appeal of a Federal Subsistence Board decision is estimated at \$105 (one appeal requiring 3 hours, at a rate of \$35 per hour).

Therefore, the total annual cost to the Federal Government for this information collection is estimated to be \$35,096.

15. Provide the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in items 13 or 14 of OMB 83-I.

Based on our experience, we estimate that 4,900 people will annually apply for a Federal Subsistence Hunt Permit and respond to the hunt report. This is an adjustment decrease of 300 respondents from the number estimated in the previous information collection projections. This equates to an adjustment reduction of 75 hours for the annual burden hours for this form.

We also estimate that 400 people will annually apply for a Designated Hunter permit and respond to the hunt report. This is an adjustment decrease of 300 respondents from the number estimated in the previous information collection projections. This equates to an adjustment reduction of 75 hours for the annual burden hours for this form.

In addition, in our last request for approval of the Fish/Shellfish Harvest Permit, which was the first approval for that form, we estimated that 1,000 people would annually apply for a Fish/Shellfish Harvest permit and that it would take each applicant 15 minutes to fill out the paperwork. Based on our experience since that time, we now estimate that 125 people will annually apply for a Fish/Shellfish Harvest permit and that it will take 30 minutes for each applicant to complete the associated paperwork. This is an adjustment decrease of 875 respondents from the number estimated in the previous information collection projections. This equates to an adjustment reduction of 187 hours for the annual burden hours for this information collection.

Finally, we estimate that we will receive one appeal request per year and that it will take 4 hours for the requestor to complete that request. These four hours were inadvertently omitted from our last request for OMB approval of this information collection, so this equates to a program change of 4 hours for this collection.

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Not applicable. We do not intend to publish the results of this collection.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

Not applicable. We intend to continue to display the expiration date for OMB approval of this information collection.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in item 19 of OMB 83-I.

Not applicable. There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

## **Section B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

Statistical methods are not employed.